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Some ASES students required to quarantine

by SUE TIFFIN

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Archie Stouffer Elementary School students in a Grade 5/6 class and on one school bus have been identified as close contacts of a person who has tested positive for COVID-19.

An April 2 email to families in the Grade 5/6 class from the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit [HKPRDHU] notes that students attending that class on March 30, March 31 or April 1 have been "identified as a close contact of an individual who is positive for COVID-19." On April 3, an email was sent to students of Bus #20 with the same quarantine dates.

The letter serves as official notice of mandatory quarantine, noted as a legal requirement to prevent the spread of COVID-19, and testing recommendation for those children.

As of April 2, the students "must quarantine at home from now until midnight on April 15," and can return to school on April 16 as long as they have no symptoms. They should not leave their property unless to go for testing or seek medical attention. It is recommended they go for testing at their nearest assessment centre on April 8. If they have been tested prior to April 8, "a re-test is strongly recommended on April 11."



Setting up shop for the shot

Benji Crego of Jeff Howe Construction works on a ramp for accessibility as part of the preparations for the health unit's COVID-19 vaccination clinic at Minden's S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena on April 6. See more photos on page 4. /DARREN **LUM Staff**

Flood risk appears extremely low

by CHAD INGRAM

Editor

Major flooding in Minden and other areas of Haliburton County seems incredibly unlikely this year, barring substantial rains.

A watershed conditions statement for the see HOUSEHOLD page 2 Bancroft District of the Ministry of Natural

Resources and Forestry (which includes Haliburton County) in late March indicated that warm temperatures had reduced the snowpack across the region. And while that has meant seasonally normal increases in flows and levels on local waterbodies and some flooding in low-lying areas, without substantial rain, severe flooding this spring does not seem likely to occur.

"There's no chance of flooding this

year, so far, unless we get torrential rains," Algonquin Highlands Mayor Carol Moffatt said during an April 1 council meeting.

That said, residents are still encouraged to keep an eye on water levels, and their properties.

"Residents of Bancroft District should keep a close watch on conditions, regularly

see RESIDENTS page 2



MINDEN SUBARU



13061 Hwv 35 Minden, ON 705-286-6126



The Gull River in Minden on the morning of April 6. Barring significant rainfall, severe flooding is not expected this year. /CHAD INGRAM Staff

Residents encouraged to remain vigilant

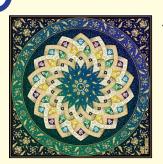
from page 1

check for updated messages and exercise caution near fast-moving rivers and streams," reads a release from the MNRF. "Please alert any children or other dependents under your care to these dangers and supervise their activities. Residents who have a historic susceptibility to flooding should take appropri-

ate precautions to protect their property, such as ensuring sump pumps are functioning and securing items that may float away as water levels rise."

"Ice cover in the rivers and streams may breakup as a result of warm temperatures and higher flows, increasing the risk of ice jams and associated overbank flooding," it reads.





The Teachings of Baha'u'llah (Bahai Faith) are offered to all mankind.

Your local Baha'is community invites you to investigate these teachings.

Consultation not confrontation, in all matters pertaining to the administration of, "an ever advancing civilization"

If you have any questions or if you would like more information contact a Bahai in your area.

Haliburton Helen 705-457-1999, Minden George and Kathie 705-286-3378
West Guilford/Kenisis, Pat and Peter 416-606-9657
Eagle Lake/Fort Irwin Gord and Kathryn 705-754-0939 or www.bahai.org

Household members must stay home

from page 1

"If your child does not have symptoms, all household members must stay home except for essential reasons," reads the letter. "Essential reasons include attending work/ school/childcare and essential errands such as groceries, attending medical appointments or picking up prescriptions. If your child has symptoms, household members must quarantine until a negative test result is received."

A second letter from Jane Austin, principal, Archie Stouffer Elementary School, was sent to all families of students attending the school. It notes that students not considered a close contact of the person who tested positive for COVID-19 "may come to school, as usual," and "do not need to stay at home (isolate) or go for testing unless they start showing new or worsening symptoms of COVID-19 and do not pass the daily COVID-19 self-screening."

"We know this information may be upset-

ting," said Austin in the letter. "We are working closely with Trillium Lakelands District School Board and [the HKPRD health unit]. Together we are taking necessary steps to prevent the further spread of COVID-19 within our school community. Due to privacy laws, the health unit will not release personal information about any staff or student who is ill unless deemed necessary."

"Please know that whenever there is an identified COVID-19 case at a school, there is additional cleaning and sanitizing of the school above and beyond the extensive cleaning and sanitizing that occurs throughout each school day. The safety of our students and staff is most important and we continue to follow all public health protocols."

Further information is available at http://www.hkpr.on.ca, or by calling 1-866-888-4577 ext. 1508. Parents/Caregivers with any questions or concerns can contact the health unit at 1-866-888-4577 ext. 5020 or covid19@hkpr.on.ca.

Virtual septic social May 4

by CHAD INGRAM

Editor

The Township of Algonquin Highlands and WSP Canada, the firm that conducts septic inspections on behalf of the township, will host a virtual Septic Social event on the evening of May 4.

Prior to the pandemic, in-person Septic Socials – educational events regarding the connection between well-maintained septic systems and lake health – were popular events in the township. A report from chief

building official Dave Rogers received by Algonquin Highlands councillors during an April 1 meeting indicated that WSP would host a virtual Septic Social event for \$1,750 plus taxes, which will include a question-and-answer period following a presentation.

"The good thing is, it will be another recorded event," said Mayor Carol Moffatt, indicating the presentation would be available for viewing online afterward for those not able to view it live, and adding that residents are always able to contact WSP directly with questions about the township's septic re-inspection program. "... There's lots of options to become informed."

County planning director resigns

The County of Haliburton is seeking a new director of planning as current director Charlsey White has tendered her resignation in order to pursue a new career opportunity.

County councillors accepted that resignation during a March 24 meeting, with kind words for White, who's also served as the county's deputy chief administrative officer, from council and staff.

"I am sorry to read this resolution, and

we'll certainly miss her jaunty attitude, as she always approached her work in a great way," said chief administrative officer Mike Rutter.

"I must say that we have a lot more enthusiasm for some resolutions than we do for others," said County Warden Liz Danielsen.

Staff

	COVID-19 Contacts, Cases, Hospitalizations, and Deaths by County													
County	Current Cases Not Resolved	Current High Risk Contacts	Current Probable Cases	Confirmed Cases (Total to date)	Confirmed Cases Resolved (Total to Date)	Hospitalizations (Total to date)	Confirmed Deaths (Total to date)	Probable Deaths (Tota to date)						
Haliburton	7	16	0	75	67	3	1	0						
Kawartha Lakes	22	56	0	604	540	32	42	13						
Northumberland	63	165	2	557	482	18	12	0						
Total***	92	283	2	1,236	1,089	53	55	13						

Seven local unresolved cases of COVID-19 as of April 6

In the April 6 data upload from the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge district health unit, two new confirmed cases of COVID-19 were added to the local case count. The current unresolved case count on April 6 is 7 cases. Currently, 16 high-risk contact cases are noted.

"The current count for high-risk contacts in the health unit region will be reflected shortly," said a spokesperson for the HKPRD health unit when asked if the current high-risk contact tally includes the number of students quarantining from ASES. "Currently, there is a backlog of data entry into the system – especially involving school cases. HKPRDHU is doing its best to clear up the backlog as quickly as possible." /Screenshot from HKPRDHU website

25 per cent discount for 'tower' entry

by CHAD INGRAM

Editor

There will be a 25 per cent discount for entry to the Dorset tower property this summer, with the tower itself remaining closed to the public amid the continuing COVID-19 crisis.

During a March 4 meeting, councillors had discussed how big a discount should be given for entry to the property, given that its main attraction will remain closed for the season. Parks, rec and trails director Chris Card has indicated the social distancing and sanitization requirements that must be adhered to during the COVID-19 pandemic would too difficult to maintain on the tower structure itself.

It was decided the township's emergency operations centre, tasked with making operational decisions for the township amid the pandemic, that a 25 per cent discount should be instituted, During the March 4 meeting, some councillors had suggested that discount should be as high as 50 per cent, given the tower itself would be closed.

Expenses for the property's operation will remain the same, with the same staffing contingent hired for the season, and paid-duty police officers and a security firm hired to control traffic along Highway 35 during the peak of fall foliage, which attracts thousands upon thousands of people to the

"It was felt that the full financial picture should be seen by council," Card said during an April 1 Algonquin Highlands council meeting, reiterating that operating costs at the tower property would remain the same.

A report from Card showed those costs are approximately \$270,000, with most of that expense typically offset by tower revenues, including season passes and vehicles passes to the site. The report indicated a 25 per cent reduction in admission fees would result in a deficit of more than \$50,000, and that a 50 per cent reduction would result in a deficit of nearly

Any operating surplus that might be accrued during the year is traditionally put toward projects at the property.

"Seeing the amounts of money ... I'm maybe wondering about somewhere in between," said Deputy Mayor Liz Danielsen, suggesting perhaps a 35 per cent discount be considered.

The majority of council was fine with sticking with a discount of 25 per cent.

"There's still lots to do at the tower, just because you can't go up the tower," said Councillor Julia Shortreed, referring to the park property the tower is located on, and its Peek-A-Boo Rock lookout over Lake of Bays.

"Ultimately, we're talking about a buck or two for most people," said Councillor Jennifer Dailloux, supporting the



The onus to make it appealing to visitors falls to Algonquin Highlands taxpayers, and I'm not sure that's fair.

- ALGONQUIN HIGHLANDS MAYOR CAROL MOFFATT



recommendation for 25 per cent.

"The onus to make it appealing to visitors falls to Algonquin Highlands taxpayers, and I'm not sure that's fair," said Mayor Carol Moffatt, who'd supported a discount of 25 per cent throughout discussions.

The tower property is scheduled to open May 17.

Charging station for North Shore Road

by CHAD INGRAM

Editor

Algonquin Highlands councillors have agreed with a recommendation that the first municipally owned electric vehicle charging station in the township will be located in the stretch of township facilities along North Shore Road.

As part of its climate change mitigation plan, the County of Haliburton has applied to funding programs to help fund charging stations for the county and its four, lower-tier

As for the funding framework, a report from county climate change co-ordinator Korey McKay contained two options. One option entails using The Ivy Network, jointly owned by Hydro One and Ontario Power Generation. Under that option

there would be no upfront costs for municipalities, but an average annual servicing fee of \$3,300 for each two-portal station. The report indicated service would range between \$2,400 and \$4,000, depending on the location of the charging stations. The cost of electricity would come in addition to this, at approximately \$1 to \$2.50 per hour. This cost is typically recouped from the public via user fees. Installation would take place in summer or fall of this year. A second option would entail the municipalities themselves owning the charging stations. Dual-port Level 2 charging stations cost between \$15,000 and \$25,000, with up to \$10,000 of this expenditure recoverable through the funding program. Ongoing service costs would be between \$500 and \$1,800 per unit per year, with the cost of electricity covered through user fees. Installation would take place between September of 2021 and September of 2023.

The report contains recommendations for six initial installation sites within the county, that could be used for municipal

fleet vehicles as well as by members of the public, including the Algonquin Highlands complex along North Shore Road.

"That's why the North Shore Road location was chosen, because hopefully we will be moving toward electric vehicles ourselves," said Mayor Carol Moffatt.

Councillors agreed on the proposed location, leaving it to staff to determine the exact location within the span of municipally owned facilities along North Shore Road.

Councillors said they preferred the first funding option involving The Ivy Network, since it has fewer upfront costs and also leaves servicing to the company.

"At the end of the day, someone who knows what they're doing is doing it," said Councillor Julia Shortreed.

Councillor Jennifer Dailloux noted that with rapidly evolving technology, were the township to purchase charging stations itself, it could end up with outdated stations before long.

The township will use modernization funding from the provincial government to fund its share of costs.



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(VIRTUAL) COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council, Committee of the Whole and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted virtually via web conference meetings, until further notice. Meetings begin at 9:00 AM unless otherwise noted.

The schedule of upcoming meetings are

April 8 - Committee of the Whole Meeting April 29 - Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by joining a live-stream link available on the township website at www. mindenhills.ca/council/ or by using the direct link provided in the notice. We encourage those wishing to view the meeting to also download the agenda, as it will not be displayed during the streaming process. Meeting agendas can be downloaded by visiting our website at www.mindenhills.ca/council/.

Please note the live-stream link provided for each meeting will only be activated while Council is in session.

DAYTIME BURNING & FIREWORKS REMINDER

Reminder that you will need a burn permit and a fireworks permit as of April 1st to October 31st

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE EVENTS

Based on your feedback, we have enhanced household hazardous waste events for 2021 to include events with extended hours, alternate locations and a weekday event to accommodate retirees and those who may not work during the week. Attendees must show valid landfill card and all materials must be from a household. Please visit mindenhills.ca/landfill for event dates and hours and accepted materials.

A MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Electrical Safety

Electricity produces heat that not only causes fires, but also burns. Follow these simple steps to help prevent injury and fires.

- Plug major appliances directly in to a wall outlet do not use extension cords or
- Only plug one heat-producing appliance into an outlet at a time.
- Regularly check electrical cords for cracks, frays, bare or loose wires and loose
- Keep all electrical cords above rugs and carpets.
- Keep electrical appliances, devices and cords away from heat and water sources.
- · Use light bulbs that match the recommended wattage on the lamp or fixture.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Join our Team! The Township of Minden Hills is accepting resumes for positions in the following Departments:

Building/Bylaw/Planning Department

Building Inspector Community Services Department

Casual Operators

Summer Student for Parks

Summer Students for the Minden Hills Cultural Centre

Individuals interested in applying should review the posting and visit our website at www.mindenhills.ca/employment-opportunities/ for more information.

WASTE REDUCTION TIP

Buy non-perishables in bulk to save money and reduce the amount of packaging you generate.

NOTICE OF HYDRANT FLUSHING

Please note that mandatory Fire Hydrant flushing will be performed throughout the Minden Water Distribution System between: April 5, 2021 to April 19, 2021

During this period please allow your water to run for 2-5 minutes to clear any discolouration through the home plumbing.



Ontario's COVID-19 vaccine plan is helping to stop the spread and save lives. Thousands of people across the province are getting vaccinated every day.

As vaccinations continue, we need to stay the course to protect those we love. Wear a mask. Wash your hands. Keep your distance.

Find out when, where and how to get vaccinated at ontario.ca/covidvaccineplan or call 1-888-999-6488 for assistance in more than 300 languages.

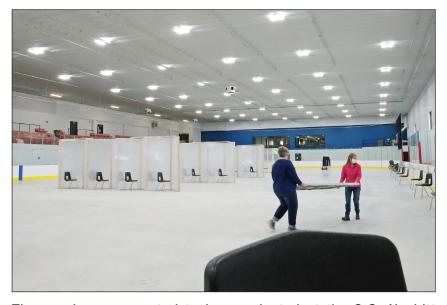
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Minden vaccination hub ready for residents

The health unit's Lynne Franke, who is the manager of operations inititatives places a numbered sticker at a pod where vaccine recipients will be told to wait, as part of the preparations for the health unit's vaccination clinic on Tuesday, April 6 at the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena in Minden. The clinic will employ the Grey Bruce County health unit's 'hockey hub' concept where vaccinators and adminstrative assistants, who take data, will move from one vaccine recipient to another at the pods. It is a Canadian approach to improve efficiency and minimize the movement of the vaccine recipients, who will wait in place for the duration of the process, including the 15 minutes after receiving the dose. Vaccinations are by appointment only and will be held at the arena Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. The rink will be used for vaccinations until July and the clinic will then move to the attached Minden Hills Community Centre. /DARREN LUM Staff



Thousands are expected to be vaccinated at the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena from this week until July. Pictured close to noon, the preparations for the health unit's vaccination clinic were held on Tuesday, April 6.



The health unit's Lynne Franke, who is the manager of operations initiatives walks by pods where vaccine recipients will be told to wait.

Wildcats will embrace Earth Day through songwriting workshop

by DARREN LUM Times Staff

Archie Stouffer Elementary School students are being gifted an opportunity by local environment group Environment Haliburton (EH) to have their environmental consciousness raised with an artistic experience this coming Earth Day on

Three intermediate classes (Grade 6 to 8 students) at the school will each participate in a 90-minute session, as part of a virtual workshop with long-time environmental activist, politician, songwriter, playwright and musician James Gordon, who will present and then work with each class to write and perform a song based on Earth Day themes, which will be recorded and sent back to ASES after.

Gordon's hope for the participating students is they develop the confidence to take what they have learned and try songwriting on their own.

"I've been thrilled with how many times this happens. Since I've been doing this for many years, I sometimes get CDs in the mail or download links from young people who say 'you came to my Grade 5 class and it inspired me to take up songwriting. Here is the result!' Also, I hope that by writing a song about Earth Day/ environmental/ climate change themes that their own awareness of these issues are raised," he wrote in an email.

Before the workshop, the classes were asked to pick and overarching theme related to Earth Day or the environment. The goal was to finish the day with three different collabo-

Gordon said he's led hundreds of these kind of workshops before and discovered that students learn that their opinions and feelings matter. There is also a discovery about the songwriting process, which becomes an accessible art form and they learn the value of collaboration, co-operation, listening and sharing ideas.

He adds with new technology the written song can be posted on YouTube or on social media platforms to "make a real



Musician, songwriter, playwright and environmental activist James Gordon is looking forward to teaching and collaborating with three ASES classes to write and perform their own songs during a virtual workshop scheduled this coming Earth Day on April 22. It's part of a learning opportunity faciliated by local environment activist group Environment Haliburton, which was asked by Dr. Dan Longboat to use his appearance fee from the 2019 summer speaker series to be used in a school. /Photo submitted

impact."

EH board member Eric Lillius said this opportunity is possible because of Dr. Dan Longboat, who made an appearance for the summer speaker series hosted by EH in Minden in 2019. He asked the payment owed to him for his appearance be used for school programming.

Typically, Lillius said, the organization has been focused

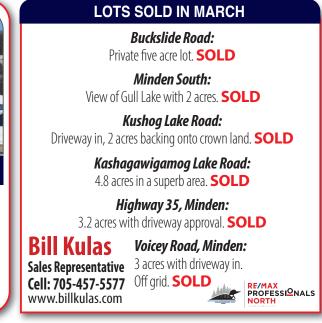
on reaching adults, so the environmentalist activist organization used this opportunity to facilitate an outreach workshop to raise consciousness of the climate emergency facing the world among youth.

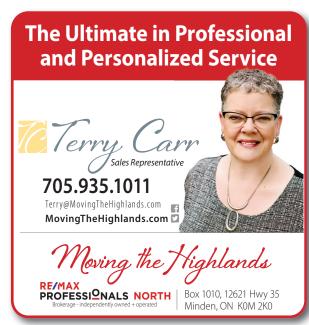
"It becomes a teaching moment for the teachers and then 'OK, how do we integrate that?' And what these kids will

see EVENT page 13













INOTHERWORDS

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A bad joke

N APRIL FOOL'S DAY, just a day before the Easter weekend and two days after hinting Ontarians shouldn't make Easter plans, Premier Doug Ford announced another "shutdown" in the province amid the third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The lockdown that was announced last week contains more of the muddled, contradictory and confusing regulations that Ontarians have been listening to for a year now, sprung on us in the last-minute feeking and the last-minute

fashion we've also become accustomed to, belying a lack of planning on the part of the provincial government.

The announcement was that Ford was pushing the "emergency brake," which is apparently distinct from the so-called "grey"

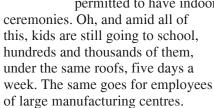
zone, although no one is really sure how. Who is really sure what the province's coloured-coded categories mean at all anymore, anyway? The things that are permitted and prohibited under each of the zones seem to change constantly. The whole province is basically now that dirty brown colour that's created when kids mush all the paint colours together.

While supposedly the entire province is now in some kind of lockdown, a wide array of businesses are permitted to remain open, with limited capacities in place, except for those in the hard-hit hairdressing and beauty industries who can't see clients, and restaurateurs, who must once again shut down eat-in dining and close patios. Sometimes it seems like the provincial government is convinced the virus only spreads

in barbershops, beauty parlours and eateries, leaving those sectors disproportionately impacted by economic shutdowns in a way that is profoundly unfair.

The contradictions are of course too numerous to list here. I can't get a haircut, but I can get a massage. I can't go to the Dominion Hotel for a burger and a beer, but, as a video that went viral on the internet during the weekend demonstrated, I can apparently go to Yorkdale mall with thousands of other people and

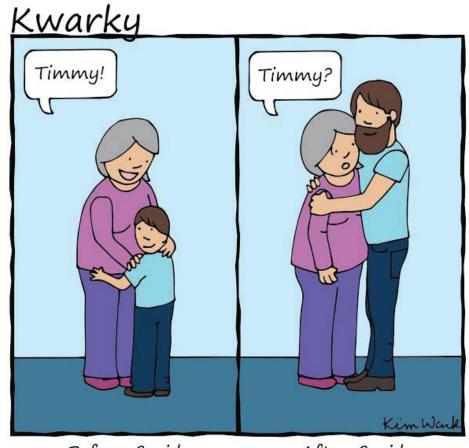
eat in the food court there. I can't have an outdoor fourth birthday party for my daughter, inviting the same kids she goes to daycare with on a regular basis. We were told not to get together with extended family for Easter, while churches were permitted to have indoor



It's all very familiar; it's all the same stuff we've been dealing with for more than a year; a bunch of half-baked, incongruent regulations that as a whole make absolutely no sense. Some will say a truer, stricter lockdown is what is required, many of those people able to work from home or financially stable enough to not have to work at all. Some will say the restrictions go too far, many of those people losing hours, becoming unemployed, or trying to save their dying businesses.

While it's all become laughable, it's anything but funny.

Bring on the vaccine.



Before Covid

After Covid

The great turkey tease

STEVE GALEA

Beyond 35

S I WRITE this Ontario's wild turkey season is less than 20 days away. This means that turkey hunters and non-turkey hunters will have at least one thing in common – both groups will be seeing wild turkeys, in great numbers, everywhere they look. In fact, for both groups, it will appear as if the landscape is overrun with wild turkeys. Heck, I saw at least 35 birds on the weekend hanging around the parking lot of our local automotive garage, which is odd because I know for a fact none of them drive.

If nothing else, this appearance of abundance is ample proof that wild turkeys are even smarter than we previously thought.

For this simple act of making themselves seen everywhere means that turkey hunters will think this season is going to be a cake walk, while those who don't hunt turkeys are left with the impression that putting your tag around a turkey's leg is easy.

Both impressions are meant to do harm to hunters.

That's because every hunter will have their confidence bolstered by excessive turkey

sightings. This means they might be tricked into saying something stupid in public like, "This year I'll probably fill both of my wild turkey tags quickly so I can spend the rest of my spring fishing or hunting for bears..."

Non-hunters will think this is entirely plausible based on how close and common wild turkeys are of late too.

Make no mistake. We are all being played by those turkeys.

You see, they will carry on with this ruse until the day before turkey season, at which time they will suddenly disappear from the huntable landscape. Oh sure, they'll continue to show up in parks, schoolyards and downtown backyards. Heck, they might even stop traffic on our busier roads. This is all just part of their crafty plan to push the narrative that knocking over a wild turkey is

ridiculously easy and anyone who can't do it is a dolt.

But, as I said, things will be quite different on the huntable landscape.

There you will hear only the distant calls of gobblers sounding off proudly from public parks, schoolyards, and town backyards and local automotive repair establishments. Heck, you might even hear motorists honking horns and cursing at them from our busier roads.

In the places, where they are supposed to be, however, they will be scarce, spooky, and much harder to tag.

As a result, when hunters come home empty-handed, their non-hunting neighbour

and townsfolk will say thinks like, "How can you not get a wild turkey? Those dumb birds are everywhere!"

Sure, you could patiently explain that there are no birds to be found in the area where you saw dozens before the hunting season started, but who would believe you?

No one. That's who.

Or you could say that wild turkeys are much smarter than people give them credit for. But

then you would have to explain why they routinely peck at their own reflections.

This is precisely the kind of trouble wild

This is precisely the kind of trouble wild turkeys hope provoke this time of year and it is something I refer to as the Great Turkey Tease.

Essentially, its how they get inside our heads, cause us to lose patience and make rookie mistakes like yelling "Finally!" before we shoot, which gives them plenty of warning to duck.

The only way for a hunter to counteract this devious plan is to understand that the number of turkeys seen in and around town is not based in any sort of reality you will encounter while hunting.

Unless, of course, you set up in the parking lot of the local automotive garage.



CHAD INGRAM

Editor

INOTHERWORDS

Columns and Letters to the Editor

Finding ancient treasure

LOVE WHEN SPRING cleaning uncovers a treasure of the past. There it was among the rubble of a long-forgotten junk box: a once ■ valuable tool and an important piece of history. A true treasure, totally useless today except for its memories.

It was my BlackBerry, tossed aside years ago; another victim of a fast-moving world that waits for nothing, or no one, to catch up. I hold it fondly, reflecting on the ingenuity that created it and how we need more ingenuity in these

My BlackBerry's history is fascinating, and inspiring. It once was the smart-



JIM POLING SR. From Shaman's Rock

phone, controlling 50 per cent of the U.S. smartphone market and 20 per cent globally. The Business Insider website reported that at its peak in 2011, BlackBerry sold more than 50 million units.

BlackBerry Limited (formerly Research in Motion) was created in 1984 by two Ontario college engineering students - Mike Lazaridis and Douglas Fregin. In the 1990s they invented a two-way messaging system which grew into the BlackBerry - a pager capable of email and a telephone.

Everything about the BlackBerry was quirky. First, it had a QWERTY keyboard instead of an alphabeti-

cal key arrangement. The QWERTY keyboard has those six letters starting the first alphabet row of the keyboard instead of the ABCDEF on the first manual

Even the BlackBerry logo was quirky – seven of what appeared to be seeds from a black berry. (Actually, they are drupelets, but explaining them will get us deeply into botany terminology).

One really cool aspect of the BlackBerry was the way it fit into your hand. It was small, but had a solid feel; not too heavy, not too light. It operated nicely with one hand, sitting comfortably in the fingers while allowing the thumb to operate the keyboard and most of the controls.

I find today's iPhone clumsy and awkward. I need two hands to operate mine properly and still make many typing mistakes. But maybe it's just me.

My BlackBerry also had a cool case. It clipped securely, but unobtrusively, to my belt. It had a flip down magnetized tab that prevented the unit from falling out of the case.

All in all, BlackBerry had a simple design, was easy to learn and easy to use. The Apple iPhone collapsed BlackBerry's market. Apple kept introducing new versions, adding features that grabbed the attention of consumers.

iPhones were more of a fun toy. They had games and personal apps, and of course, very serious cameras. Even today they are more about entertainment than getting serious work done.

Obviously, today's iPhone and other smartphones are used for work, but my view is that they are more personal devices used mainly for casual chat, games, and personal apps.

Certainly, they are an important part of our lives. Most people have them and I'd guess that most people would prefer them over the old-fashioned BlackBerry.

The question now is what do I do with a long-forgotten BlackBerry retrieved from a hidden junk box? I decide to consult Google – on my iPhone, of course.

There is no shortage of suggestions. One wag suggested coating it with peanut butter and giving it to your dog to play with.

Another suggests gathering a group of friends, who also have abandoned BlackBerries, and hold a skeet shooting party.

I have an idea of my own. I am going to mount it on my desk next to my laptop. There I will be able to touch it fondly every time something goes wrong with the laptop, or one of its programs or apps, or the internet service, or when I receive scam emails.

My old BlackBerry will be like a crying towel. When things go wrong in this wonderful technological age (which is pretty much daily) I will reach out, caress it and yearn for a return to the days when most things worked well, and if they didn't, you could fix them yourself.

And, I'll yearn for the ingenuity of those two college kids who invented a machine that changed the world.

A lack of their kind of thinking has left us fumbling and stumbling through a predictable pandemic that is taking millions of lives, ruining many others and destroying our economy.

The fine line

LAURIE SWEIG

Practical Fitness

LOVE MOVING my body. That may not be a surprise to anyone. I have always maintained some level of fitness. My fitness has ebbed and flowed over the years but it has always allowed me to do what I wanted to do at any given time.

I'm heading into my second spring of country living. I love the country life and all of the physical work it entails. My plan this

year was to jump into all of the spring-type chores with gusto. Up until a week ago I felt great. My weight is down, I don't have any serious aches or pains. The chainsaw feels lighter than it did last year. However, a small piece of awareness unpacked itself in front me - a case of PVD. It was my second case in six months. It's now happened once in each eye. Posterior Vitreous Detachment occurs when the vitreous gel

that fills the eye separates from the retina. Apparently it's a natural change that happens as we age. The big concern is that the symptoms (seeing floaters and flashing lights) can also be indicative of a retinal tear or detachment. Thankfully those were both ruled out by an ophthalmologist.

The ophthalmologist assured me that my recent activities (tackling spring chores with gusto) did not bring on the PVD. I'm choosing not to believe him. No disrespect. During the week or so leading up to the PVD episode my behaviour was extreme. It was like I had something to prove. I'm not sure who I was proving it to but I was on some ridiculous mission. Full days of physical activity. I was thinking: there's so much to do, I feel good and I'm ready to get things done! Boom. There it was. The mes-

sage. The correction. I can't move as much as I thought. I can't say that this bout of extreme activity caused the PVD but it did leave me exhausted. I believe I went over a line. The fine line between just enough and too much.

It's a tricky line to walk. If we don't move enough we put our bodies at risk of various diseases and ailments (heart disease,

> stroke, diabetes, etc). If we do too much there's the potential of injury. I believe the answer lies in getting as close to that line as possible. Stepping over it is a risk. The best thing to do then is to stop and take stock. I'm doing that now. I'm making changes that will, I hope, keep me moving for a very long time. I'm working on a better balance between physical and mental tasks that need doing. I'm becoming OK with

leaving things half done and coming back to them after a break. I'm building in a rest time part way through my day. Sometimes that means taking a nap, and I'm okay with

Part of this adjustment means cutting back on some of my commitments. Writing these articles on a weekly basis is one of the commitments I am going to change. To give me a bit more time to cut wood, rake leaves or nap I'll be here every two weeks. It's important to stay on the healthier side of that fine line.

Something to think about.

Laurie Sweig is a certified personal fitness trainer and spinning instructor. She owns and operates The Point for Fitness. She can be reached at laurie@thepointforfitness.com.

HCPL's Book of the Month - April



China, 1937. When Japanese bombs begin falling on the city of Nanking, nineteen-year-old university student Hu Lian and her classmates are ordered to flee. They must walk 1,000 miles to the safety of China's western provinces, a journey marred by the constant threat of aerial attack. And it is not just the refugees who are at risk; Lian and her classmates have been entrusted with a priceless treasure: a 500-year-old collection of myths and folklore known as the Library of Legends.

The students' duty to safeguard the Library creates unexpected bonds. Lian becomes friends with the handsome and wealthy Liu Shaoming. But after one classmate is arrested and another is murdered. Lian realizes she must escape before a family secret puts her in danger too. Accompanied by Shao and his enigmatic maidservant, Sparrow, Lian makes her way to Shanghai in the hopes of reuniting with her family. Check out this Evergreen nominee from Haliburton County Public Library today!



Have a thought, comment or opinion you'd like to share?

Send a letter to the editor to chad@haliburtonpress.com

by SUE TIFFIN

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Each March, the annual U-Links Celebration of Research event fills a room with unadulterated excitement from a community joining to share in the research findings of the year.

A collective hubbub created by individuals meeting and greeting each other, asking questions of students and their work even before presentations start, and discussing whether their group or organization is involved this year or they're attending out of curiosity typically precedes the event in which research projects are shared, discussed and appreciated.

Last year, the celebration, which invites the public to learn about research being conducted by Fleming College and Trent University students partnered with host organizations from throughout Haliburton County, was cancelled after the pandemic was declared just a few weeks before the event would have taken place and the province stayed home in its first lockdown. This year, the Celebration of Research went virtual, attended by more than 100 people including members of the Minden-based U-Links Centre for Community-Based Research management committee and staff, of local community groups and organizations, faculty supervisors, participating students and their family members, joining together from throughout Ontario. The research projects - of a scientific, historic, cultural, social, economic, or environmental nature - were showcased in three presentations in a main room on the Zoom platform, and in breakout rooms in which guests clicked from room to room or stayed focused in one room, having the opportunity to learn more about 30 communitybased research projects.

As reported in the March 16 issue of the Echo, projects shared in the main room included Biodiversity Planning and Protection in The Land Between presented by Samantha Dunlop, Shoreline Stewardship – Capacity Building Through ENCO Programming and Local Partnerships presented by Mystaya Touw, and Benthic Program Overview, presented by Kiera Schweighardt and Leanne Matthews. Breakout room poster sessions featured projects ranging from Planet Haliburton Radio Show Ideas, Kennisis Lake



Trent University student and researcher Leanne Matthews presented at the Celebration of Research on her findings after studying benthic invertebrates at seven sites on Kennisis Lake. Matthews is seen here, left, with program coordinator/supervising biologist, Brendan Martin, holding a sample collected at one of the sites at Kennisis Lake./Submitted photo

History Book, Diabetes and Dental Caries, Blue-Green Algae Mitigation Strategies to an Abbey Gardens Municipal Composting Project.

Guests appreciated the unique set-up of the event, which kept people moving on their screen and also during a stretch-filled movement break.

Greg Wickware, of the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust, was able to hear about four Haliburton Highlands Land Trust projects – one focused on Club Moss Monitoring, one on Dragonfly Monitoring, one on Bird Monitoring and one on Frog Monitoring.

"I thought the virtual offering was amazing and I would thank all those that made the Celebration of Research possible – maybe the best, since people like me who live many hours away were able to attend and applaud

the work of students," he said. "They really do pour their hearts and souls into the projects."

Wickware said the students, professors, and U-Links co-ordinators involved have been a support for the community's progress.

"As an organization we love looking for [or] suggesting opportunities for the student to expand their knowledge of the natural world and especially for them to know and understand their work is important to the future of the HHLT," he said. "While their work is not always perfect that is not the point, their work offers the HHLT the opportunity to open internal dialog as to the opportunities for us to move forward. What an amazing contribution that U-Links and the university make to the citizens of Haliburton County and to the HHLT."

Rachel Gillooly, coordinator for the Haliburton County/City of Kawartha Lakes Roundtable for Ending Poverty said the Roundtable collaborated on two research projects with U-Links and students: Sustainable Procurement in Haliburton County and City of Kawartha Lakes, and Factors Securing Employment in Haliburton County and City of Kawartha Lakes.

"I was really pleased to hear, first hand, the work our research students [and their academic advisors] undertook for their respective projects," said Gillooly, noting she hoped that the newly created Fleming Service System Manager and local municipal governments would "pay appropriate attention to the findings and consider moving forward with some of the excellent recommendations."

"It would be wonderful if some attention was paid to the research results, and appropriate systemic/policy and system changes/ adjustments made to work towards making some changes in approach," said Gillooly. "After all, poverty, economic and social exclusion is all about systemic inequities: an unequal ability to access services. I believe the preliminary findings from these two research studies may go a long way to enhancing our community's resilience and build on and enhance what's working but address what's not. I hope that the powers that be are willing to take a look and listen, and work towards making our communities more resilient and prosperous.'

Linda Middleton of Crystal Image Studio recently worked on a design project with U-Links. She said she loved the virtual offering, though would have liked even more time to check in on each project.

"They do such great work here, we are lucky to have them and have people that pay attention to them and their work," she said.

More information about U-Links Centre for Community-Based Research is available at ulinks.ca. Groups and organizations, businesses and municipalities with project ideas or questions of interest to members of the community should contact U-Links staff before June 30 if possible at 705-286-2411 or admin@ulinks.ca to get started. To watch this year's Virtual Celebration of Research video or review research posters and key findings, visit https://www.ulinks.ca/celebration-of-research.html.

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Cobourg Community Centre (750 D'Arcy St.)
Campbellford: Trent Hills Emergency Base (50 Doxsee Ave.)

City of Kawartha Lakes

Lindsay Exhibition (354 Angeline St. S)
Fenelon Falls Community Centre (27 Veterans Way)

Don't see any open appointments?

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County vaccination clinics begin this month, new MoH arrives

by SUE TIFFIN

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The following are brief reports from the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge district health unit press conference held virtually March 31 with acting medical officer of health Dr. Ian Gemmill.

A mass vaccination clinic begins this week on April 6 at the S.G. Nesbitt arena in Minden, and the following week on April 12 (until June 12) at the A.J. LaRue arena in H aliburton.

Clinics are also open at the Lindsay Exhibition, which is a drive-thru site, and the Fenelon Falls Community Centre in City of Kawartha Lakes, and at the Cobourg Community Centre and Trent Hills Emergency Services Base in Campbellford in Northumberland County.

Those looking to book an appointment for a vaccination can do so online at www.ontario.ca/bookvaccine or by phone at 1-888-999-6488. If a clinic does not appear to be available, residents are asked to check again at a later date when more appointments have been added.

Some people might be eligible for a vaccine - including health care workers, Indigenous adults and adult recipients of chronic home health care - though not old enough to use the online booking system. More information about determining eligibility and making an appointment is available here: https://www.hkpr.on.ca/2021/03/26/ are-you-eligible-for-covid-19-vaccine/

MOH recommends against travelling outside of health unit region for vaccine

Gemmill has noted that anyone living in Ontario is able to get their vaccine, when eligible, anywhere throughout the province – that means people in Haliburton County can leave the county to get their vaccine, and also that seasonal residents or anyone else can get their vaccine in Haliburton County.

When asked by a reporter if that contradicts the province's recommendations for people to avoid travel if possible, Gemmill said he doesn't want people driving more than 20 or 30 minutes to a site.

"We should not be encouraging people to travel long distances to get this, because when you travel – you've heard me say this 100 times – that's one of the ways that virus can be taken from one community to another," said Gemmill.

He said, though, that if someone is already in a location, they can get the vaccine there rather than having to return to their primary

"I do not encourage people to travel to get this vaccine," Gemmill said.

Pandemic still a threat despite low numbers in HKPRDHU region last week

In the past 14 days, Gemmill said 57 cases have been reported in the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge district health unit, most of them not from outbreaks.

"I'm so glad about that, I'm so glad that



We should not be encouraging people to travel long distances to get this.

— DR. IAN GEMMILL



the long-term care homes seem to be safe because of the vaccine that the residents and staff have received," said Gemmill.

He said he remains worried about the risk of variants of concern - not that the vaccine as it rolls out won't be effective in preventing that spread, but that it is more highly transmissible and is resulting in more cases of younger people.

"We're not going up here in the same worrisome degree that they are in other parts of Ontario, in some ways we're extremely lucky here, but I don't ever want to say that things are OK here, or quiet, because things can turn on a dime as we've seen in other parts of the province," said Gemmill. "You just think that things are going fine and then the next thing you know you have an outbreak that leads to 40 cases or whatever. And it's been happening here, there and everywhere, and it could happen here as well."

Gemmill said his colleagues have told him that in their regions, the cases of critically ill people they're seeing more now are younger

people – those in their 40s and 50s – and that intensive care unit beds are occupied in most of the major centres.

"Let's count our blessings for the moment, and say that if there's a third wave we aren't really seeing it here to the same degree," said Gemmill, noting the pandemic isn't out of control here but reinforcing that "anything can happen" and the public should continue adhering to public health guidelines until the population is fully vaccinated.

Dr. Bocking begins role as HKPRDHU medical officer of health

The March 31 press conference marked the last for Dr. Ian Gemmill, who has been acting medical officer of health for the HKPRD health unit since Dr. Noseworthy retired in December. Dr. Natalie Bocking has worked for the last four years as a public health physician at the Thunder Bay District Health Unit and Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority. She received her medical doctorate from McMaster University and is a public health and preventative medicine specialist. During her time in northern Ontario, she was also a locum family physician. She and her family now live in City of Kawartha Lakes. "She has a wealth of knowledge and experience in providing public health programs and services in rural areas of the province and has most recently worked with northern First Nations communities to provide public health services," Doug Elmslie, chair of the board of HKPR District Health Unit, said.

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Vaccination clinic provides relief to elders: 'overwhelmed and so thankful'

by SUE TIFFIN

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

In just eight days, over about 40 hours, a team of people made up of physicians, nurses, paramedics, administrators, roads crew, volunteers and spouses of those team members vaccinated 1,946 people in Haliburton County.

"It was a very successful few days," said Kimberley Robinson, executive director and manager, Haliburton Highlands Family Health Team/Haliburton Family Medical Centre.

The last clinic at the Haliburton Family Medical Centre was held March 30, as mass vaccination clinics are prepared to open in the upcoming weeks.

The site was one that occasionally saw tears – not for the jab of the needle, but for the relief felt by our community's older population – some born in the early 1930s - as some of the first Ontario residents to receive the COVID-19 vaccine one year into the pandemic.

"They were simply overwhelmed and so thankful to be receiving the vaccine," said Robinson. "Many people were relieved and excited. We heard from so many, how they are now one step closer to seeing their grandchildren, children,

sister/brother. People commented that the clinic was not only efficient, but that every person they had contact with was so pleasant and kind. There were many kudos to the team."

To manage distributing leftover shots - vials of vaccine must be used in full or risk being wasted - Robinson said if leftovers were likely, the team first called patients who were booked the next day in the clinic to see if they might be able to come a day early; then searched the HFMC database to see if patients born in 1946 or earlier had been booked for a vaccination or had already received one and call them in if not; and if additional older residents could not be found, health care workers supporting the vaccination clinic who hadn't received their first dose were vaccinated.

The clinic required much support to run as efficiently as it did, and Robinson said that came together right from the entrance, with Dysart et al municipality supporting the event by providing paid parking passes for those attending the clinics, and members of the roads crew and park and rec directing traffic and handing out consent forms as people arrived.

"All participants that I spoke with were honoured to be part of the COVID vaccine roll-out locally - including me,"

Volunteers from Lakeside Church, spouses of other team members and county administrators screened and greeted patients, who were then coordinated by nurses. Medics in the observation area assisted with the checkout process and an administrator or clinician stood by in case of an adverse event. Staff from Haliburton Family Medical Centre, Haliburton Highlands Family Health Team and the Haliburton Highlands Health Services covered checkin, check-out, immunizing and observation. A nurse with Haliburton Highlands Health Services immunized each person – almost 2,000 participants, most people who were born prior to 1946.

"I was overwhelmed by the gratitude," said Robinson. "I was also overwhelmed by the support of my colleagues, our community partners, and others. Team members of the HHFHT and HFMC put aside their daily roles and responsibilities to work in the vaccination clinics, which meant long days and late nights. We had administrators with the County of Haliburton, roads crew, Haliburton County Paramedic Service medics and administrators, retired physicians, spouses of our team members, members of the Lakeside Church community, HHHS and Community Support Services. They just got it done. I am so proud to be part of such a spectacular team."

Locally, mass vaccination clinics will be held at the S.G. Nesbitt arena in Minden beginning April 6, and the A.J. LaRue arena in Haliburton beginning April 12.









Premier announces four-week 'emergency brake'

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

A day after Ontario saw the highest number of people with COVID-19 related critical illness admitted to intensive care units [ICUs] so far during the pandemic, and a day before the Easter holiday began, the provincial government announced on April 1 they were pulling their so-called "emergency brake," and called for a four-week shutdown province-wide beginning April 3, through critics questioned if it was enough to prevent a further healthcare crisis.

"We are facing a very serious situation and drastic measures are required to contain the rapid spread of the virus, especially the new variants of concern," said Premier Doug Ford in a statement released on the afternoon of April 1. "I know pulling the emergency brake will be difficult on many people across the province, but we must try and prevent more people from getting infected and overwhelming our hospitals. Our vaccine rollout is steadily increasing, and I encourage everyone who is eligible to get vaccinated. That is our best protection against this deadly virus."

Modelling released by the provincial government's COVID-19 scientific advisors in the morning prior to the shutdown announcement showed a surge of both COVID-19 case numbers and hospitalizations as variants of concern spread rapidly in the third wave of

the pandemic in Ontario.

Ontario reported 2,557 new COVID-19 cases on that same day, while in Haliburton County, one new COVID-19 case was reported. On Saturday, that number jumped by seven new cases with Friday and Saturday reporting.

The shutdown announcement means the colour-coded zones of COVID-19 Response Framework are paused. The 'emergency brake' zone is listed above the grey zone in

As of 12:01 a.m. on Saturday, April 3, all 34 public health regions in the province moved into shutdown for four weeks.

Restrictions include:

- Prohibiting indoor organized public events and social gatherings and limiting the capacity for outdoor organized public events or social gatherings to a 5-person maximum, except for gatherings with members of the same household (the people you live with) or gatherings of members of one household and one other person from another household who lives alone;
- · Limits on in-person shopping in all retail settings, including a 50 per cent capacity limit for supermarkets, grocery stores, convenience stores, indoor farmers' markets, other stores that primarily sell food and pharmacies, and 25 per cent for all other retail including big box stores, along with other public health and workplace safety measures;
 - No personal care services;

• No indoor and outdoor dining. Take-out, delivery and drive-thru options are allowed;

• Prohibiting the use of facilities for indoor or outdoor sports and recreational fitness (e.g., gyms) with very limited exceptions;

• The closure of day camps;

- · Limiting capacity at weddings, funerals, and religious services, rites or ceremonies to 15 per cent occupancy per room indoors, and to the number of individuals that can maintain two metres of physical distance outdoors. This does not include social gatherings associated with these services such as receptions, which are not permitted indoors and are limited to five people outdoors;
- Short-term rentals cabins and cottages are only to be provided to individuals in need of housing.

Additionally, Ontarians are asked to limit their trips out for necessities - food, medication, medical appointments, exercise, and supporting vulnerable community members. Indoor gatherings are not allowed outside of those people you live with, and outdoor gatherings are limited to five people with physical distancing maintained, according to the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District health unit.

The restrictions are similar to those that were already in place in Toronto and Peel Region.

"The announcement from the provincial government regarding the province-wide emergency break measures is disheartening for local businesses," said Angelica Ingram, Haliburton BIA. "Our BIA members have gone to great lengths to incorporate policies and measures that result in a safe shopping/dining/service experience. Many of these emergency measures (like the ones announced today) primarily hurt small, independent businesses and don't take into account the number of COVID 19 cases in the region. Moving forward, the BIA hopes the government begins to consider the health and resiliency of the local economy when making provincial decisions and that there is a light at the end of this long tunnel."

Ingram added "It is encouraging to see some businesses can remain open with capacity limits in place. It is unfortunate that certain sectors of the economy, mainly dining establishments and personal care services, are constantly being asked to close their doors without much notice. This is resulting in business owners making tough decisions for their business and job losses in our community."

Brick-and-mortar schools will remain open after Easter weekend for four days from Tuesday to Friday this week before the spring break - which was postponed from March to reduce spread of the virus - though 1,240 of 4,828 schools - almost 26 per cent reported currently having at least one case of COVID-19 as of April 1.

Concern and confusion was shared by educators and parents in the past week that the April spring break would possibly be cancelled or postponed again. While one school board told parents the impending provincial shutdown would likely also result in a school closure, and some education unions have suggested switching to online-only classes after Easter, Education Minister Stephen Lecce said "schools are critical for students' mental health and learning" and that the chief medical officer of health had said schools re-

Locally, two cases of COVID-19 in students at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School have been reported by the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge district health unit as being resolved and last Friday [April 2] a Grade 5/6 class at Archie Stouffer Elementary



Moving forward, the BIA hopes the government begins to consider the health and resiliency of the local economy when making provincial decisions and that there is a light at the end of this long tunnel.

- ANGELICA INGRAM



School and group of students on a bus was quarantined due to one case. Asymptomatic testing has not been done on the entire school population in Haliburton County - a weekend event in early March for staff, students and their families to be tested resulted in just 69 people turning up.

A stay-at-home order was not issued during Thursday's announcement, with Health Minister Christine Elliott noting the last time a stay-at-home order was in place - earlier this year - it had "tremendous ill effect on children and adults," and said that with the warm weather coming, Ontarians should still be able to be outdoors, although previous stay-at-home orders still permitted people to

As of March 31, there were 421 patients in intensive care units in the province with COVID-related critical illness. On Wednesday, the CCSO reported that almost 60 per cent of hospitals with ICUs have less than five critical care beds left.

The previous high-water mark for COVID-19 patients in intensive care in Ontario was 420 on Jan. 15, during the province's second wave of the pandemic.

Health care professionals have been pleading with the government to intervene as critical care centres became overloaded, taking to Twitter to describe the situation they were seeing in their hospitals.

Before the April 1 announcement, a group of more than 150 ICU physicians released an open letter to Premier Ford, Minister Elliott and chief medical officer Dr. David Williams, requesting stricter public health measures.

'Ontario is at a critical point in the pandemic, and we are being led down a very dangerous path by using ICU capacity as a benchmark for tolerance of COVID-19 spread," reads the letter. "We do not agree with this approach and believe new public health measures are required immediately in order to regain control of the pandemic and

Variants of concern are causing those who get infected to have a higher chance of hospitalization, ICU admission, and death, reads the letter, which notes healthcare teams are seeing younger patients on ventilators -"many are parents of school-aged children" - including "entire families" that end up in

"We are caring for people who have contracted COVID-19 at work, or who have followed all the rules and only gone out for groceries," reads the letter.

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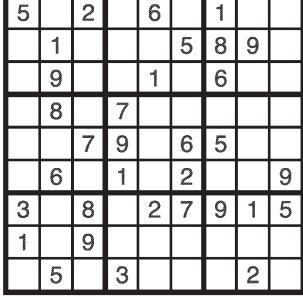
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Answers on page 15

until April 28

from page 12

While the government has increased bed capacity in hospitals, healthcare workers say there is a need for staff, which would have to be "borrowed from other crucial but non-emergency services."

"As we are forced to increasingly scale back these services to treat COVID patients, non-COVID care suffers," said the letter. "The surgical backlog will take years to overcome. Early-stage cancers will be missed."

"As ICU doctors, we are the last line of defence, and we are ringing the alarm bell," wrote the group. "Please hear it. We implore you to act now."

On March 26, Anthony Dale, Ontario Hospital Association president and CEO shared a media release warning that Ontario's critical care system was reaching its "saturation

He said the levels being faced then – 1,871 patients in ICU, 401 of those with COVID-related illness, and 74 COVIDrelated admissions in the past 48 hours - were "already well beyond the threshold after which hospitals can operate normally," he wrote. "If the number of ICU admissions continues to increase in the days ahead, as is expected, Ontario's hospitals will be under extraordinary pressure to try and ensure equitable access to lifesaving critical care.'

"The health system will face punishing conditions in the weeks to come, and it is vital that each and every Ontarian redouble their efforts to protect themselves, their loved ones, and those who continue to fight the virus on the frontlines,"

Haliburton Highlands Health Services noted the impact of the spread of the virus to our healthcare system cannot be underestimated, with far-reaching implications as hospitals across the province work together to ensure overall capacity of the system as a whole is maintained.

"While the local pressures on our hospital have remained manageable to date, Haliburton Highlands Health Services is obviously part of the broader regional and provincial hospital system," said Carolyn Plummer, president and CEO of HHHS. "Pressures experienced in one part of the system necessarily have impact on the rest. HHHS is working with regional partners to ensure that we are able to play our part in maintaining the capacity of the overall system. All hospitals have a supportive role to play in ensuring Ontarians have continued access to safe and efficient health care and we will be closely watching what is happening in other regions in preparation."

For more information visit https://covid-19.ontario.ca/ zones-and-restrictions.

MH office closes to public

With another provincial shutdown amid the continuing COVID-19 crisis, the Township of Minden Hills administrative office on Milne Street is again closed to the public.

A release from the township indicates the office will be closed to walk-in traffic until April 30.

Residents and customers are encouraged to use the township's website at www.mindenhills.ca to access services, or email questions to admin@mindenhills.ca. By telephone, call the township office at 705-286-1260.

The arena and community centre remain closed to the public, and the Minden Hills Cultural Centre, which had recently reopened its doors, is again closed.

Staff



Measures in place | Event arranged by Environment Haliburton

from page 5

produce kind of reflects what they're thinking about ... think about environmental themes. Think about the environment. For us it's a climate emergency. For James it's a climate emergency. For governments not so much," he said.

He adds there could be a ripple effect from this, which could extend beyond the students to their families.

"We're just dropping a rock into the pool and the ripples will go out," he said.

Before the pandemic, Lillius had thought of bringing in Gordon more than a year ago because he was working on his Emergency Climate Musical and was going to be in the area for the related planned tour. The pandemic delayed things, but with students back in school the workshop was planned for this year. He adds EH would consider more learning opportunities like this in the future, but without the Longboat donation this wouldn't be possible. EH welcomes donations to plan to offer these kinds of educational opportunities.

ASES principal Jane Austin said this virtual workshop led by Gordon is important for three reasons:

"One, building awareness of local volunteer organizations and an understanding of their mandate enhances service learning and community leadership. Two, extra-curricular learning opportunities enhance the Ontario curriculum and

students' understanding and awareness of local, national and global issues. Three, the need for all of us to be environmental stewards is vital to the health of the community and the planet. Understanding of global warming is the first step to making a difference and being change-makers for our

Austin continues with, "I hope that the students learn about climate change, their carbon footprint and how they might work as individuals to make a positive impact on the Earth. I hope that they glean some knowledge about song-writing and the power of music to convey a message. I hope that they enhance their teamworking and networking skills through the

Gordon said these kinds of workshops provide an opportunity for discovery by everyone involved.

'Kids write great songs! They often have no preconceived notion around cliches, pop formulas etc. ... so they write from the heart. I've often found that sometimes the teachers are surprised at which students take on a leadership role in the process. Not the usual suspects, but sometimes shyer students who really latch onto the possibilities of this medium to communicate and to shine! I've learned that kids can write good songs without musical training too. Anyone can do it!" he wrote.





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Serving You

Despite lockdown, some April Break activities available

SUE TIFFIN

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Given changing restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic, please contact organizers before planning to participate in any in-person events to ensure they are running as planned.

Spring Activity Kits

The Municipality of Dysart et al and the Haliburton Highlands Museum are distributing Spring Activity Kits free of charge to children, with pick-up being available the week of April 6 to 10 and April 12 to 16.

"The kits are going to be super fun," said Kate Butler, director at the Haliburton Highlands Museum. "They're going to feature activities from the museum, from the recreation department and from the environment department. There will be some supplies to get kids out gardening, activity booklets, scavenger hunts, a fun spring craft and some other surprises."

Kits might include a seed starter kit, a scavenger hunt with a chance to win prizes, an activity from the environment department, a museum scavenger hunt around town and a butterfly wind sock activity.

The museum will also be posting spring break activities on their social media throughout the week, providing opportunities to do activities together while apart.

"We usually offer a bunch of in-person programming for the Spring Break," said Butler. "But, of course, all that sort of stuff has to be scaled back for this year, so this is a way for us to still provide some activities that families can enjoy, but from the comfort of their homes."

Kits are geared toward children aged six through 10. Quantities are limited and kits must be reserved ahead of time - contact Kate Butler at 705-457-2760 for more information or to reserve your kit.

Spring Break Library Lineup

Mark your calendar for the multitude of spring break offerings from the Haliburton County Public Library.

For a fun and quirky Online Storytime with "Robster and Lobster in the Reading Lagoon," tune in live on the Haliburton County Public Library's Facebook page on Saturday, April 10 and April 17 at 10:10 a.m., or visit HCPL's YouTube page for those shows and more.

Kids wanting to create and explore can sign out kits for one-week home loans. The library is already sharing Snap Circuits (engineering, electronics and circuitry kits) thanks to a donation from the Lions Club, and MakeyMakey invention kits, and now with a donation from the Friends of the Haliburton County Public Library are adding 3D Pens and Ozobot robots beginning April 12.

Also on April 12, at 10:10 a.m., kids and adults alike can tune in to a Zoom storytime with author Phyllis Bordo reading her book, Lilly Esther Conquers the Worries, and attendees that register in advance can create a "worry monster" from a grab 'n' go craft activity bag. Sign up for free by emailing info@haliburtonlibrary.ca.

From April 12 to April 16 at 1 p.m., Rob Muir is leading a Video Game Asset Creation in Blender series geared for teens. Tune in live or visit the HCPL Facebook or YouTube page at any time after each session. Topics are creating and



Rob Muir sings songs, reads books, and tells the funniest jokes you've ever heard in videos shared online through the Haliburton County Public Library's Facebook page and YouTube channel. Two episodes will air over the weekend of the April Break. /Screenshot from HCPL YouTube

animating a basic Minecraft-style character, creating a virtual set for animation/green screen, creating and animating an advanced Pixar/Fortnite-style character, animating in 2D and a session on scripts, shortcuts, sharing your stuff and sites with

On April 13, "Family" grab-and-go craft bags become available for pick-up while supplies last at the Minden and Dysart branches for the school break.

From April 13 to April 17, a self-guided story walk via 'window browsing' will be available all week at the Minden, Dysart and Wilberforce library branches.

Also from April 13 to April 15, at 2 p.m. daily, Family

Maker Breaks for school-aged kids will be broadcast online to watch live or later on HCPL's Facebook and YouTube pages. On April 13, Nicole will lead a "Cool Clothespeg Craft." On April 14, make tasty spring "dirt" parfait cups with Jaime – no actual dirt is involved. On April 15, see the making of a stop-motion sewing video with Noelia.

Visit haliburtonlibrary.ca for more information.

Outdoors at Abbey Gardens

At Abbey Gardens, two on-site programs are happening over the April break to help get kids outdoors.

On Wednesday, April 14 from noon until 4 p.m., kids aged six to nine can "Take a Walk on the Spring Side," exploring the trails of Abbey Gardens to experience "how nature looks, sounds and smells as it begins its new season." Physical distancing is in place and the program is held entirely outdoors, so "fair weather" programming is in effect which means it will only run if there are no extreme weather conditions predicted. The cost for the program is \$40 per child.

On April 13, 14 and 15 from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m., "The Mane Event," welcomes kids aged nine to 15 to a three-day camp "that fosters confidence and leadership skills in a safe outdoor environment."

"Each day will include an introduction to horsemanship and hands-on care, management, and training of our horses: learning to properly catch, groom and handle our rare breed ambassadors," reads information about the program, which is based on ground training techniques and care rather than riding. "Fun horse focused activities, crafts and journaling will be interspersed with Equine Assisted Learning sessions. Using our powerful teachers Maple, Sammy, and Flapjack, participants will develop confidence, self-awareness about their behaviour, and alternative skills to help them overcome challenges and cope with the social pressures they face

The program is limited to six youth, two per pony to maintain safe physical distancing, and costs \$165 for the full three-

Registration is available online at abbeygardens.ca.

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youth wellness hubs ONTARIO

HALIBURTON COUNTY

Haliburton Youth Wellness Hub

Care Coordinator (Full Time-Permanent)

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We welcome and strongly encourage employment of persons with lived experiences, economic challenges, from First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples, people of all ages, ancestry, citizenship, ethnic origin, place of origin, faith, creed, disability, family status, marital status, all genders and sexual orientation.

Please visit www.pointintime.ca for a detailed job description. Send resume by April 12, 2021 to:

Mary Sisson, Youth Wellness Hub Manager marys@pointintime.ca or Point in Time Centre for Children, Youth and Parents P.O. Box 1306, 69 Eastern Avenue, Haliburton, ON KOM 1S0



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Please forward your resume to abull@haliburtoncounty.ca no later than April 16, 2021.

We thank all who apply for this position; however only those selected for an interview will be contacted

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY



Cleaning Services Onondaga Camp, Minden, seeks 5 Staff SEASONAL (2021) Starting at \$17.00 /hr and up

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Off Site Driver

Onondaga Camp, Minden, seeks 1 Staff SEASONAL (2021) \$14.50/hr

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- Pick up prescriptions/supplies as needed for the Health Centre.
- Do a daily 'town run' to pick up supplies that are needed for camp programs or office.
- Pick up supplies in Toronto (or outside of Minden/Haliburton) as needed.
- Handling of incoming and outgoing mail.
- Ensure that vehicles are scheduled and taken for oil changes as needed.
- Ensure the vehicles have adequate gas and fill as necessary.
- Keep vehicles clean and free of garbage.
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Necessary Qualifications/Competencies

- Full G License & minimum age of 21 years old
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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY



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Qualifications and Requirements:

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- Strength-based perspective
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 Willingness to go above and beyond for both clients and colleagues

Valid driver's license

- Experience in a therapeutic role with children, youth and families
- Knowledge of trauma-informed and anti-oppressive practice
- Case management experience
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- Able to work with clients of diverse cultural and social backgrounds
- Crisis intervention experience
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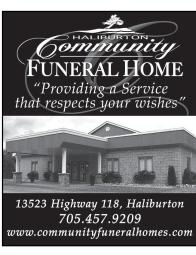
Point in Time is committed to building an organization that reflects the communities we work with. We encourage applications from members of Black, Indigenous, and racialized communities, LGBTQ+ communities, people with disabilities, and members of other equityseeking groups. Point in Time will provide accommodation during the recruitment process to ensure equal access to applicants with disabilities, upon the request of the applicant

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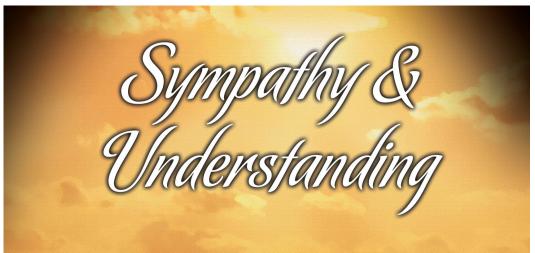
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Scott Valentine

(Resident of Lindsay, Ontario)

Peacefully at Victoria Manor on Friday April 2, 2021 in his 59th year. Beloved husband of late Heather Valentine (nee McLean). Cherished son of Marg

Valentine and the late Peter Valentine. Loving father of Dan (Nina) and Conar. Dear brother of Lorie (Tom Reddering). Also lovingly remembered by his nieces and nephews and the McLean Family. Predeceased by son Jack, and his brother Mark. Scott was a builder and a gifted Stone Mason. He was a lover of music and played guitar, loved his bon fires and singalongs. He enjoyed scuba diving, skiing and travelling with family and friends.

Celebration Of Life

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. Donations to the Alzheimer Society or planting a tree in Scott's memory would be appreciated by the family. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the COBOCONK COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME 6644 Hwy. #35, Coboconk, Ontario (705)454-3913.

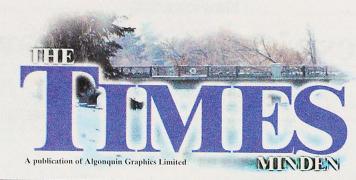
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You do the hokey pokey...

Archie Stouffer students help put new page in Guinness Book of World Records .. page 10



Care bears

Klara Oyler, a volunteer with the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation, is surrounded by the new generation of fundraising bears. They are \$20 each and are available at the Minden hospital.



Spring cleaning

Finally, spring showed its beautiful face last week with balmy temperatures, cool blue skies and warm sunshine. People all over the Highlands took advantage of the weather, using Mother Nature as a clothes dryer. Above, a young Kinmount resident helped her mom with the laundry on Tuesday afternoon. Of course, no one's looking forward to the next sign of spring - blackflies

Delegates give thumbs up to clean and clear bylaw

by ALLISON TAYLOR Times staff

Chalk one up for those in favour of the clean and clear bylaw.

They came as individuals and they arrived in pairs but they all came with the same purpose - to show support for a bylaw that has stirred up the community.

Five residents took the opportunity to share their views on the contentious bylaw with members of the Minden Hills legislation, building, bylaw and fire committee on April

The committee meeting was open to anyone who wanted to make a short presentation and as it turned out, the delegates unanimously praised the concept of the bylaw. They wanted to see it promptly passed by

council, upon the recommendation of the committee. While one delegate had some reservations about the vagueness of the terminology used in the document, he still said the bylaw would be good for the community of Minden.

First up to the table, with photos in hand, Fred Preston wanted to talk about a potential situation near his own home. He shared his photos with the committee and told them the bylaw would make his community in Minden Hills safer and cleaner.

'The clean and clear bylaw is a necessity. It doesn't cost anything and we need it to keep things clean," Preston said.

Preston was asked by Councillor Ron Buchanan, who was chairing the meeting, to refrain from citing any names and to stick to see BE WARY page 5

County cuts and trims proposed budget hike to 14%

by JERRY GROZELLE

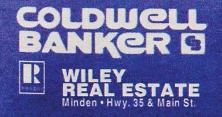
Times staff

If the draft Haliburton County budget passes as amended, ratepayers will see an increase of 14 per cent.

Although a 14 per cent increase in the county portion of the tax levy may sound like a lot, at last Thursday's first budget meeting county treasurer Shannon Hunter said it translates to an increase of \$28 per \$100,000 of assessed value. As it stands, the county tax levy would be \$236 for a property assessed at \$100,000.

Ten per cent of the increase is to pay a debenture that was negotiated last year to pay for roads, bridges and 9-1-1. Most of the

see BUDGET page 2







\$379,000 Call Al Mayo for appointment.

Legacy.

From humble beginnings in 1953, we have grown to become a recognized insurance brokerage in the Highlands. When my grandfather, Floyd Hall, started the brokerage he focused on building relationships. That remains our objective to this day. Our clients typically know us by name, call us directly or personally visit our office to discuss their needs. We thank them for the trust they place in us. For those who don't know us, we welcome your inquiry.

Minden 705.286.1270 Haliburton 705.457.1732 ghall@floydhallinsurance.com









Gull River, West Guilford \$799,000

- Custom Built
- Open concept 3 Bed
- 240 ft frontage
- Access to 3 chain lake





Ski Hill Chalet \$1,195,500

- Apprx 152 Ft Rd Frtg, 1.05 Acres •1727 Sq Ft, 3 Bdm, 2 x 4 pc Bath
- •1120 SqFt Heated Grg
- Direct Sir Sam's Ski Hill Access





COMING SOON

Kushog Lake \$975,000

•132 ft of waterfront on 4 acres

West facing gorgeous sunsets

• Clean rock shelf shore + sand beach

2-bedroom, 1-bathroom vintage log cabin





Highway 35 \$999,000

- Great commercial lot right on highway 35
- Close to new business developments
- Fantastic business opportunity



Wanted – I have buyers for

Bush lots and hunting camps

Waterfront cottages

Rural homes





Kennisis Lake \$1,699,000

- Turn-key 2,700 SF waterfront home
- Open concept, 5 bedrooms, 3 baths
- 200+ FT on peaceful Paddy's Bay
- Premium Lake boating on Kennisis



One of the Last Lots - Kennisis Lake

• 196 Ft Frontage, 2.3 Acres, Well Treed. Sunrises

Deep Water Entry, Clean Clear Pristine Waters



Rush Lake \$699.000

- 4-Season, over 2.200 SQ FT Cottage
- Clean waterfront with Western Exposure
- Open concept, 4 bedrooms & a partially finished lower level





- Mink Rd. \$109,900
- Approx 1 acre, nicely forested, good privacy
 Close to public access to Long/Miskwabi Lake
- Year-round Municipal Road access Minutes to Haliburton Village



Green Lake \$529,000

• Newer septic, upgraded elec

•125 ft sand shoreline

2 bedroom, 615sa.ft.

•1 bdrm Bunkie,

County Road 21 \$750,000



- Commercial property in Haliburton
- Prime corner location, 1.5 acres
- Rental house as an added feature Sale includes land, & building





Haliburton Multi-Rental \$395,000

- 2x2 bedrooms, 1x1 bedroom
- Hydro metered separately, parking ·Coin laundry, drilled well, muni sewer

Barry Line Rd \$149,900

• Private 5+ acres, yr round rd

•Includes insulated garage, drilled well

Pretty building site for home/ctge





Minden Lake \$799,000

2004 build & completely updated

• 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 1460 sf

165 ft waterfront, 0.89 acres

West exposure, sand beach









Gooderham Area \$159.000

· Access to Billings Lake in walking distance

10 acres year round road,









• SELLING PRICES ARE UP!

- Non-waterfront up 110%*, Waterfront up 79%*
- MAKE A SHARP MOVE and List with Chris!
- *(Jan2020-Jan2021 The Lakelands Assoc.)



Wigamog Road 21 \$799,000

94 acres overlooking Kashagawigamog

Large, mature trees & trails throughout

Close to Haliburton, driveway installed





















Horseshoe Lake \$550,000

- 0.50 acres, west facing,147 ft sand frontage
- 3 season, 3 bdrm Panabode ctge, boathouse
- yr round private rd

Gull River, Deep Bay Rd \$199,000

- 145' frontage, 0.8 acres
- Year Round Municipal Road
- Southern Exposure
- Boat into Gull Lake or Minden





- Little Cameron Lake \$925,000 Spectacular views from 14' wall of windows
- ·182' waterfront
- Full walkout basement

We are open for business! Our clients' health remains our primary concern. Our REALTORS will be following certain protocols to ensure our clients' safety. Contact us to learn more about our updated practices.

CENTURY 21

Granite Realty Group Inc.

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